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April 25, 2002

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Chairman Powell,

Burlington is located 13 miles from the Colorado/Kansas board on I-70 and has a population of 3,200 residents. It has become imperative for rural communities to have access to telecommunications to stay competitive in the global business industry. For the to city attract new businesses, we have found that telecommunications ranks high on the list of necessities. Telecommunications plays a major role in our school system for educational opportunities for the youth and our community college. The number one industry in Burlington is farming and ranching, and the local producers have become very dependent on technology to market their products. Burlington, like many rural communities seems to suffer the most because of location and the cost to build the infrastructure to provide the best in technology.

For example, this week, our local community college was hosting an Internet Master Class with 15 participants and the Internet Service Provider went down for the afternoon and the class could not work on-line. This is not the first time it has happened. It is not only a poor reflection on the community and the college, but also it accelerates the need for better service and dependability.

As you can see, opening up Colorado's telecommunication markets will provide an expanded marketplace and opportunity to reach our telecommunication goals and address the many needs of community. We support the request for Qwest to offer long distance service in Colorado. We encourage you to expedite your decision and look forward to potential service it can provide to this state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darlene".

Darlene B. Scott
Community Development

"Building a Stronger Community For Tomorrow!"